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Northwest Medical to build Marana hospital in 6-8 years

By Aaron Mackey

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Northwest Medical Center plans to build a hospital in Marana within six to eight years.

While specific details of the hospital aren't set, the medical center is in the process of buying 55 acres near West Moore Road and the Interstate 10 frontage road, said Kim Chimene, a hospital spokeswoman.

The size and specific health services offered at the hospital will be determined based on community need, Chimene said.

"That will be coming as Marana grows," she said.

Officials with Northwest have recognized the growing need for a hospital in Marana as the population continues to grow.

While Northwest has an urgent-care center in Continental Ranch, it can't offer all the services of a hospital, Chimene said.

The closest hospital for many northern Marana residents west of I-10 is Northwest's Oro Valley campus, at 1551 E. Tangerine Road near north La Cañada Drive.

The campus in Marana would give residents a closer option, Chimene said.

The location for the hospital is great for the town and the region, said Town Manager Mike Reuwsaat.

Because the hospital will be close to I-10, people living in southern Pinal County won't have to drive to Tucson to get medical care.

The hospital could eventually have a trauma center, which would handle high-level emergencies, though it's too early to tell whether that's a possibility, Reuwsaat said.

"There are a lot of benefits to its location," he said.

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